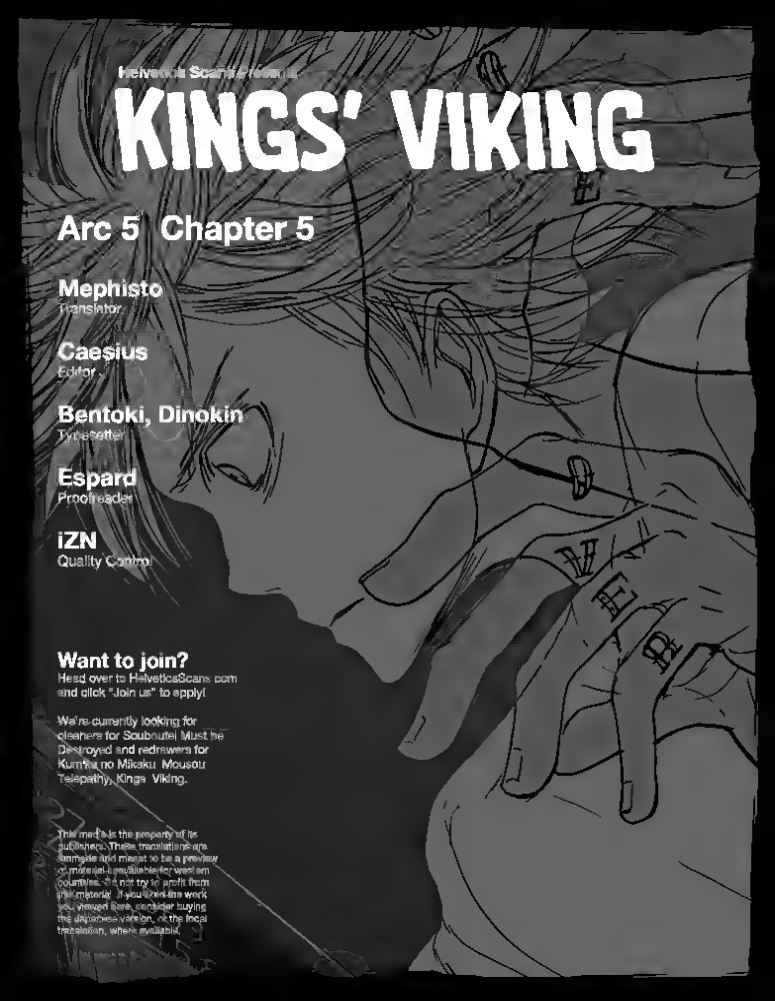
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MUTTER
MY NAME IS KOREEDA KAZUKI... I'M A CONSULTANT...
I'M SORRY FOR NOT BEING PROPERLY DRESSED
MUTTER
MY NAME IS KOREEDA KAZUKI I'M A...

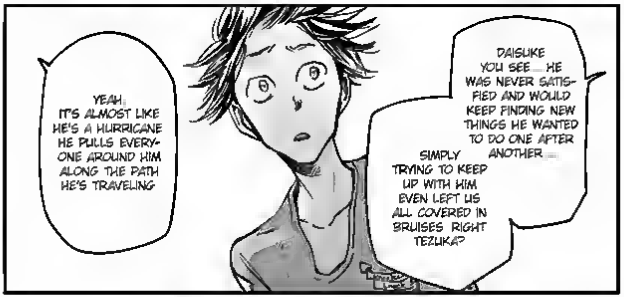
OPEN
LI-LIMM
KO-KOREE KO...
OH, MIGHT YOU HAPPEN TO BE THE LEGENDARY GENIUS HACKER WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?

YO! IT'S NICE TO FINALLY MEET DAISUKE'S FAVORITE! MY NAME IS KITAGAWA HIROYUKI. I'LL BE YOUR POINT OF CONTACT FOR TODAY.
ITA
〈CODE 5:THE BUCKET LIST〉 #5

W-WHA...?
F-FAVOR...?? KOREEDA...? MY NAME... SUITS... NEW TH—
NO... I MEAN... L-LET ME START OVER...

5一人ーザ達!!

DEBT?
YEAH HUH? SO YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SAKAI...
Jeez, look at what he's wearing!
THESE PHOTOS THEY'RE FROM WHEN SAKAI-SAN WAS YOUNGER...
THESE PHOTOS REALLY TAKE ME BACK. THIS ONE MUST'VE BEEN TAKEN BEFORE HE WAS DROWNING IN DEBT


YEAH. IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S A HURRICANE HE PULLS EVERYONE AROUND HIM ALONG THE PATH HE'S TRAVELING
DAISUKE YOU SEE... HE WAS NEVER SATISFIED AND WOULD KEEP FINDING NEW THINGS HE WANTED TO DO ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
SIMPLY TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH HIM EVEN LEFT US ALL COVERED IN BRUISES RIGHT TEZUKA?

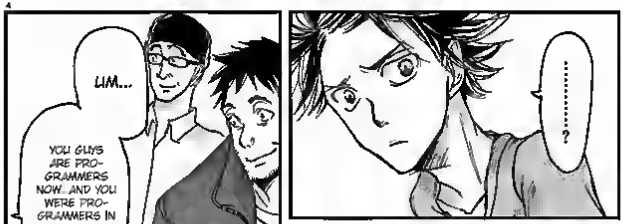
?
HE'S ALWAYS PULLING OUT HIS HAIR...
AND CHASING... AFTER ME... AND UM... HUH...?
NOTHING... IT'S JUST... THE SAKAI-SAN I'M FAMILIAR WITH —BECAUSE OF ME...

HM? WHAT'S WRONG?

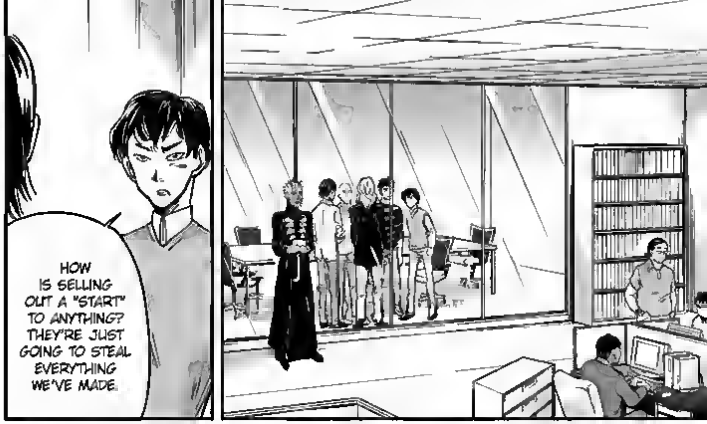
WELL AIN'T THAT SOMETHING?! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN SAKAI WOULD BE THE ONE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
DON'T APOLO-GIZE, BOY! YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!!
S-SORRY IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
O-OKAY...

AS ALWAYS, HE HAS HIS EYE ON THE "FUTURE" DOESN'T HE.
I HAVE TO SAY THOUGH... IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHERE IT'S MUCH EASIER TO MAKE A START-UP COMPANY... TO TAKE THE TIME TO FIND AND TRAIN AN 18 YEAR OLD WITH SUCH DILIGENCE

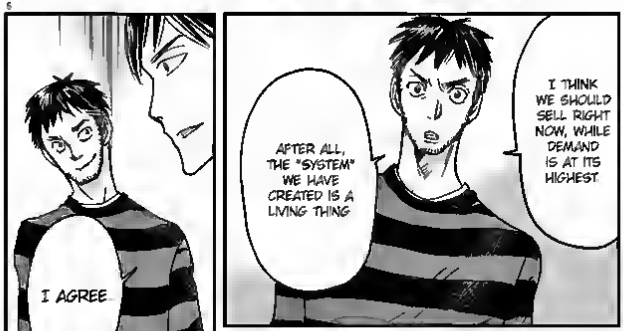
4


UM...
YOU GUYS ARE PRO-GRAMMERS NOW... AND YOU WERE PRO-GRAMMERS IN THE PAST AS WELL, RIGHT?
.....?

September 2001


HOW IS SELLING OUT A "START" TO ANYTHING? THEY'RE JUST GOING TO STEAL EVERYTHING WE'VE MADE.

THEY'VE PLACED A PRICE OF TWO BILLION YEN ON YOUR SKILLS. SELLING YOUR COMPANY WILL ALLOW YOUR CURRENT SYSTEM TO EVOLVE IN A MUCH LARGER VESSEL THAN IT CAN RIGHT NOW.
THE BUYERS ARE SAYING THAT THEY WANT "YOU GUYS" SPECIFICALLY.


I AGREE.
AFTER ALL, THE "SYSTEM" WE HAVE CREATED IS A LIVING THING.
I THINK WE SHOULD SELL RIGHT NOW, WHILE DEMAND IS AT ITS HIGHEST.

IT'S A CHANCE TO RECEIVE THANK YOU MESSAGES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
SELLING THE COMPANY WILL SERVE AS THE START LINE FOR US TO EXPAND BEYOND OUR CURRENT HORIZONS.
FOR YOU, AND THE SYSTEM THAT IS AN EXTENSION OF YOURSELF.
IF THAT'S THE GOAL, THEN WE CAN JUST KEEP THINGS AS THEY CURRENTLY ARE, AND EXPAND THROUGH OUR OWN HARD WORK
CLENCH
DAISUKE! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO...?!

FOUR TO ONE, WE'VE ALREADY REACHED A DECISION.
LETTING AN INDIVIDUAL'S EMOTIONS BE THE CRUX THAT ALLOWS VICTORY TO SLIP OUT OF OUR HANDS, WILL LEAD TO NOTHING BUT REGRET...
YOU KNOW YANAGI'S PERSONALITY AS WELL AS ANYONE HE ISN'T GOING TO BACK DOWN
WE HAVE A MONTH BEFORE WE HAVE TO REPLY
WE SIMPLY NEED TO CONVINCE HIM BEFORE THE DEAD-LINE.

I WON'T HESITATE.

IF YOU DON'T REVERSE THIS DECISION, THEN I WILL RESIGN!
WHY DON'T ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY MISGIVINGS ABOUT THIS?! YOU'RE HANDING OVER SOMETHING YOU CREATED TO SOMEONE ELSE YOU KNOW?!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE FIGHTING...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO WORK ON THE WORLD STAGE
IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY IN THE END, ISN'T IT?! I REFUSE TO GO TO AMERICA!

I'M SORRY THAT IT'S COME TO THIS YANAGI.

YA-NAGI... WAIT!

WHA-
WAI-.. DAI-SUKE..
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE UP TILL NOW

DAISUKE ONLY SAID THAT AS A BARGAINING PLOY! IN REALITY, HE ALSO...
NO, IT HAS BEEN MADE EXTREMELY CLEAR TO ME NOW
THE PATH THAT HE AND I INTEND TO FOLLOW ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

PLEASE RELAY THIS TO DAISUKE-SAN.
I WILL BE SEARCHING ONCE MORE FOR A PLACE WHERE I AM ABLE TO DO THE WORK THAT I WANT TO DO.

RATHER THAN TALKING ABOUT MY MARRIAGE, TELL ME HOW YANAGI IS DOING
HE STILL ISN'T ANSWERING MY CALLS...

HEADING TO AMERICA RIGHT AFTER EXCHANGING VOWS
I CAN'T BELIEVE AKARI-SENPAI FORGAVE YOU—

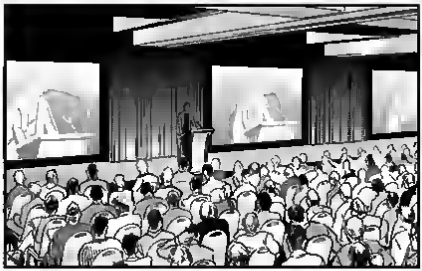
February 2002

SEEMS HE TOLD THE STORY OF HOW TRASH GOT SOLD, AND SOME INVESTMENT FIRM DECIDED TO INVEST MONEY INTO HIM
SURE, HE... STARTED HIS OWN STARTUP COMPANY IT SEEMS...

YANAGI IS COMING STRAIGHT AFTER US. I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF HAVING TO COMPETE WITH HIM...

HOWEVER, AS WE WERE ABOUT TO DEPART HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS GOING TO CREATE A COMPANY THAT PROVIDED A SIMILAR SERVICE TO THE ONE THAT WE DO...
THAT'S GREAT...

July 2 2004



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OH!! THAT'S AN UNUSUAL CALLER..
WHAT TIME IS IT IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW?
UMM. ELEVEN IN THE MORNING.
DAI-SUKE...

YANAGI IS DEAD.
SOMEONE FROM YANAGI'S COMPANY GAVE US A CALL...
AND IT SEEMS HE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF OF THE COMPANY.

TH...
THAT
IDIOT...

THEY SAY...
THEY SAY THAT HE WAS SMILING WHEN HE WENT TO WORK THAT MORNING...
AND AFTER TELLING EVERYONE "LET'S DO OUR BEST TODAY TOO!"...
HE NEVER CAME BACK...

I KNEW... THAT THINGS WEREN'T GOING WELL FOR THEM...
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT... I... SHIT...!!!

CALLING
Mitarai Yanagi